

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 3. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 3, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 3. In Fig. 1, reference numeral 20 has been added and reference numeral 18 has been deleted. In Fig. 3, reference numeral 18 has been deleted.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS

The office action of June 15, 2009, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to on various grounds.

The specification is objected to for not containing section headings and for an improper abstract of the disclosure.

Claim 13 is objected to for containing various informalities.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over DE 101 63 373.

In connection with the Examiner's objections to the application, applicant has attached hereto an Abstract of the Disclosure and has amended the specification to include section headings.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the application are overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's objection to and rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1-13.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant has also amended claim 13 to address the informalities pointed out by the Examiner. With these changes it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claim 13 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that DE 101 63 373 discloses a method for changing the working rollers in a roll stand. DE '373 does not teach a method in which the work rolls that are to be changed are changed above and below the steel strip by separating the work rolls to form a gap between the work rolls and the steel strip and laterally extracting the work rolls from the rolling unit during casting, as in the presently claimed invention. In DE '373 the upper work roll 3 is lowered onto the lower work roll 2 so that it lies on the lower work roll, and then both work rolls are removed with the lower support roll 4. There is no teaching of separating the work rolls and then removing them during casting, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

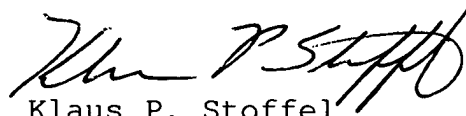
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Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 15, 2009.

By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: December 15, 2009